

P A T E N T
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Lance A. Monroe et al.

Serial No.: Unknown

Examiner in immediately preceding
parent application: K. Truong

Filed: November 7, 2001

Anticipated Group Art Unit: 3731

For: CATHETER TIP DESIGNS AMD METHOD OF MANUFACTURE

Docket No.: 1001.1337102

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" having an Express Mail mailing label number of EL855120407US, in an envelope address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on this 7th day of November, 2001.

By Kathleen L. Boekley
Kathleen L. Boekley

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

In the Specification

In the Specification at page 1, line 2, please insert the following paragraph:

-- This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/480,438, filed on

January 10, 2000. --

In the Claims

Please add new claims 47 and 48 as follows:

47. A method for assembling a stent loaded, self-expanding stent delivery catheter comprising the steps of:

providing a shaft, a retractable sheath, a self-expanding tubular stent, said shaft, stent, and sheath cooperatively sized so as to allow axially receiving said stent between said shaft and said sheath, said shaft having a distal region with outwardly directed projections and a distal end, said sheath having a distal region and a distal end, said stent having a distal end;

providing a shrinkable film material having a tubular shape with a proximal waist;

providing a distally decreasing tapered tip having a lumen therethrough and a proximal end;

affixing a portion of said shrinkable film material to said shaft at a position in said shaft distal region proximal of said distal end by snagging said waist on said shaft projections such that there exists a free portion of said film distal of said affixed position;

positioning said sheath co-axially over said shaft such that said sheath distal end is positioned near said affixed film position;

positioning said compressed stent proximally and co-axially over said shaft such that said stent distal end is disposed near said affixed film position and said stent is radially constrained by said sheath distal region;

disposing said tip co-axially over said shaft such that said tip proximal end is positioned near said affixed film position;

draping at least some of said film free portion over said distal tip; and

shrinking said film free portion over said tip such that said tip is secured in place over said shaft by said shrunken film.

48. A loaded, self-expanding stent delivery catheter assembly comprising:

a shaft having a distal end and a distal region with outwardly disposed projections;

a retractable sheath having a distal region and a distal end disposed co-axially over said shaft distal region such that said sheath distal end is positioned proximally of said shaft distal end;

a self-expanding tubular stent co-axially disposed over said shaft distal region and disposed co-axially within said sheath distal region, such that said stent is radially constrained by said sheath distal region; and

a tapered tip co-axially disposed over said shaft distal region substantially distally of said sheath distal region, said tip secured at least in part to said shaft by a generally tubular film having a proximal waist with said proximal waist secured to said shaft distal region by said outwardly disposed projections.

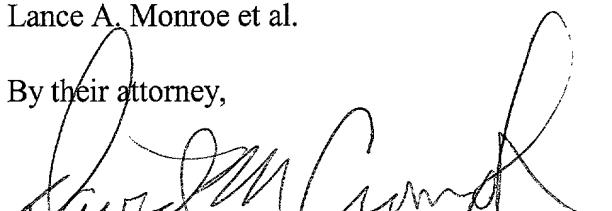
R E M A R K S

Applicants request that this Preliminary Amendment be made of record and fully considered prior to the first office action on the merits. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 12-23, 25-43 and 45-48 are pending. Any inquiry regarding this matter may be directed to the undersigned representative at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance A. Monroe et al.

By their attorney,



Date: 11/7/01

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Serial No. Unknown

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Specification:

A new paragraph beginning at line 2 of page 1 is inserted as follows:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/480,438, filed on
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LETTER TO OFFICIAL DRAFTSMAN

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By Kathleen L. Boekley
Kathleen L. Boekley

Dear Sir:

Please find attached hereto ten (10) sheets of formal drawings for filing in the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance A. Monroe et al.

By their attorney,

David M. Crompton
David M. Crompton, Reg. No. 36,772
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